

E1-1532



**Eastside Pioneers Neighborhood Association**

vj

Rochester, Mn.  
May 16, 2005

Case Control Unit  
Finance Docket No. 33407  
Surface Transportation Board  
1925 K Street, NW  
Washington D.C.  
20433-0001

The railroad right of way established in the 1800s followed near downtown areas of the cities being served. This was for the convenience of passengers, U.S. Mail, and freight services. The railroad lines were considered a friendly neighbor.

Since the demise of the passenger and mail service here in Rochester, the freight trains have continued to operate. As a matter of fact, the freight train traffic through Rochester has gradually expanded to an average of 75 cars through Rochester three to five times a day.

Concurrently, the automobile traffic in the city has expanded at a faster rate. Add to this a 135 car coal train 1.4 miles long coming through Rochester every 39 minutes, it would cause severe traffic problems.

The utilization of the 1800s railroad right of way by the coal trains will not only do harm to Rochester, but to all other cities along the route as well.

The Northeast Pioneers neighborhood where I live would be particularly affected. Within two blocks of the tracks there are 354 homes and 245 apartment and condominium units, and four railroad crossings.

If this coal train proposal is permitted to go forward, it will cause severe and irreparable damage to my neighborhood.

Sincerely,

*Berdine Erickson*  
Mr. Berdine Erickson  
1420 East Center St.  
Rochester, Mn.  
55904-4737

Attention: Victoria Rutson  
Section of Environmental Analysis